

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim Objections

Examiner has objected to Claims 6, 13, and 21. Specifically, Examiner has stated in line 2 of Claims 6, 13 and 21 “magentic” should be changed to - - magnetic - -. In response, Applicant has amended Claims 6, 13 and 21.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102

Examiner has rejected Claims 1 – 15 and 20 – 25 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Soeno. In response Applicant has amended independent Claims 1, 8 and 15 to include the limitations of: wherein said inner inactive region is sandwiched between said first piezoelectric section and said second piezoelectric section.

A description of this arrangement can be seen by reference to FIG. 12. The inner inactive region (metallized middle section 23) is shown sandwiched between piezoelectric section 42 and piezoelectric section 44. By “sandwiched”, Applicant means that metallized middle section 23 is rigidly attached to piezoelectric section 42 on one side and rigidly attached to piezoelectric section 44 on its opposite side.

In stark contrast, Soeno does not show an inner inactive region sandwiched between a first piezoelectric section and a second piezoelectric section. Instead, by referring to Soeno’s FIG. 3, it can be seen that inner inactive region 44 is connected to the first piezoelectric section 45 on one side and connected to the second piezoelectric section 45 on the same side. Therefore, there is no sandwiching of the inner inactive region.

By sandwiching the first piezoelectric section, the second piezoelectric section and the inner inactive region, Applicant’s microactuator has assumed a very simple rectangular shape (see top view shown in FIG. 5B). All of Soeno’s embodiments show configurations that are much more complicated and expensive to manufacture. The simplicity of Applicant’s device provides significant savings in the cost of manufacture.

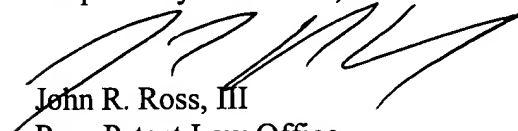
Summary

For the reasons stated above, Independent Claims 1, 8 and 15 should be allowable. All other Claims are dependent on Claims 1, 8 and 15 and should likewise be allowable.

CONCLUSION

Thus, for all the reasons given above, this application, as the claims are presently limited, define a novel, patentable, and truly valuable invention. Hence allowance of this application is respectfully submitted to be proper and is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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